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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 8, 1954 DATE

FEB 8 1954

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	DC/R-2 OLI-6* FUR/X-1 ND-1*
	REC'D 2/9	OTHER	CIA-7* ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3 USIA-1*

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Foreign Ministry Directs Sharply-Worded Press Release at Department of State.

file

In reply to the Department's January 30 press release labeling as "ridiculous and untrue" the Guatemalan Government's charge insinuating that the U.S. had acquiesced in an international plot to overthrow the Guatemalan Government, the Ministry for Foreign Relations here on February 6 issued a press release protesting that Guatemala had not made any accusations against any foreign governments, that it was merely reproducing authentic documents in which Guatemalan exiles themselves had compromised these governments, and that the Department had insulted Guatemala's sovereignty and used expressions which "are not proper in language between sovereign states" in its press release on the subject.

In this release, the Foreign Ministry indignantly rejects the Department's statement that "a mendacious propaganda campaign" is underway in Guatemala and its speculation that this was perhaps connected with the recent trips of Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ and José Manuel FORTUNY, the Communist leaders, to the Soviet Union. It describes the latter as "trips of some workers' leaders to various countries" and says that the insinuation that Guatemala is receiving instructions from any foreign government is an insult.

A translation and clippings are enclosed.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:
1. Translation
2. Clippings

JCHill:cs
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(Foreign Ministry Press Release - Informal Translation)

Ministry For Foreign Relations

February 6, 1954.

The Ministry for Foreign Relations of the Republic, on learning of the Department of State of the United States of America's statements made public under the date of January 30 of this year concerning the publication of the documents which in a trustworthy manner prove the existence of a foreign conspiracy to invade the Guatemalan territory, makes in its turn the following statements.

1. The Department of State, feeling that the United States was referred to by the phrase "government of the North" which Carlos CASTILLO Armas used in a letter dated September 20, 1953, stating that that government had taken "a decision to allow" the development of the plans of an armed movement for the purpose of invading Guatemala, has declared that the North American government had no participation in this movement. However, the Department of State has done nothing to deny the statements of some high North American officials who have made declarations in favor of the supposed necessity of intervening in the internal affairs of Guatemala through a "unilateral" action of force against Guatemala on the pretext that our country because it "has a Communist government is a threat to the American hemisphere."

2. The Government of Guatemala indignantly rejects the description of a "mendacious p ropaganda campaign" which the Department of State has allowed itself to use to describe the statements of the Government of Guatemala in publishing the documents of the criminal conspiracy which has been prepared against our country, as well as the absurd suppositions made by the Department of State that these statements are connected with the trips of some workers' leaders to various countries. With this the Department of State has sought to insinuate that the Guatemalan Government could receive instructions from foreign governments. The Guatemalan Government considers that such an insinuation is an insult to the sovereignty which it exercises in the name of the Guatemalan people, and it also rejects the use of such expressions which are not proper in the language between sovereign states.

The Government of Guatemala has been definite, when the danger was most real and imminent, to denounce an international conspiracy directed against it and to publish the authentic documents proving the existence of such a conspiracy. The Government of Guatemala is not accusing any government or any

foreign official, but has simply limited itself to reproducing authentic documents in which the Guatemalan exiles themselves compromise these governments and persons.

3. The Government of Guatemala likewise categorically rejects as mendacious the Department of State's opinion that the publications of the Government of Guatemala "immediately prior to the Tenth Inter-American Conference are a Communist effort to disrupt the work of the Conference and international solidarity," not only because such an affirmation completely lacks any found ion, but also because it shows the same insistence on co dering the Government of Guatemala as of a "Communist natu.e" with the object to attempt to justify uni- lateral action against Guatemala.

The Government of Guatemala again insists, for the Nth time, that it is not Communist nor is its program directed at constructing Communism. Far from that, it is well known that the program of the present Guatemalan Government is directed at promoting economic and social reforms such as the Agrarian Reform; at constructing progressive works undertaken exclusively with national resources; at obtaining a better level of living for the people; and defending whole the sovereignty of the nation. These measures are precisely those which, on clashing with the interests of foreign companies, constitute the cause in a large part of the propaganda campaign of threats against the Government of Guatemala undertaken by some periodicals and high officials of North America.

(Informal Translation by J.C.Hill, Jr.)

Enclosure No. 2 to

679 Guatemala Date: FEB 6 1954

1) El Imparcial 2) Prensa Libre 3) La Hora Dominical
4) Nuestro Diario 5) Diario de Centro America 6) Diario de Quezalt.
7) La Hora 8) Impacto 9) El Guatemalteco
10) El Espectador 11) Tribuna Popular 12) Diario del Pueblo

RECHAZA, POR MENDAZ, LA CONSIDERACION SOBRE QUE LAS PUBLICACIONES OFICIALES SON MANIOBRAS COMUNISTAS ENCAMINADAS A DESBARATAR LA CONFERENCIA DE CARACAS

Enérgica protesta ha hecho la Cancillería Guatemalteca con motivo de las declaraciones dadas por el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, el día 30 del pasado mes, al referirse a la publicación de los documentos por medio de los cuales se denunció una conspiración internacional dirigida al parecer por Ydigoras Fuentes y Castillo Armas.

El Boletín dado a la prensa por el Ministerio de Relaciones, dice lo siguiente:

"El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la república de Guatemala, al conocer las declaraciones del Depto. de Estado de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, dadas a la publicidad con fecha 30 de enero del presente año, referentes a la publicación de los documentos que prueban fehacientemente la existencia de una conjuración exterior destinada a invadir el territorio guatemalteco, hace a su vez las siguientes declaraciones:

1º—El Depto. de Estado, sintiendo aludido al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos con la frase "gobierno del Norte", que estampó Carlos Castillo Armas en una carta de fecha 20 de Sept. de 1953, expresando que aquel gobierno 'había tomado "la decisión de permitir" el desarrollo de los planes de un movimiento armado destinado a invadir a Guatemala, ha manifestado que el Gobierno norteamericano no tiene ninguna participación en dicho movimiento. Sin embargo, el Depto. de Estado no ha hecho nada para desmentir las declaraciones de algunos altos funcionarios norteamericanos, que han manifestado la supuesta necesidad de intervenir en los asuntos internos de Guatemala, mediante una acción "unilateral" de fuerza contra Guatemala, a pretexto de que nuestro país por "contar con un Gobierno comunista, es una amenaza para la seguridad del continente americano".

2º—El Gobierno de Guatemala rechaza con indignación la calificación de "campaña de propaganda mendaz" con que el Depto. de Estado se ha permitido denominar las declaraciones del Gobierno de Guatemala, al publicar los documentos de la criminal conspiración que se ha urdido contra nuestro país, así como las absurdas suposiciones que ha hecho el Depto. de Estado de que tales declaraciones están vinculadas a los viajes de algunos dirigentes obreros por varios países. Con ello el Depto. de Estado ha querido insinuar que el Gobierno de Guatemala podría recibir instrucciones de gobiernos extranjeros. El Gobierno de Guatemala considera que tal insinuación es un insulto a la soberanía que ejerce en nombre del pueblo de Guatemala, y vuelve a reiterar que no sólo no es instrumento de ninguna potencia extranjera, sino que rechaza el uso de expresiones semejantes, que no son propias del lenguaje entre Estados soberanos.

El Gobierno de Guatemala se ha concretado, cuando el peligro era más real e inminente, a denunciar una conspiración internacional tramada en su contra y a publicar los documentos auténticos probatorios de la existencia de tal conspiración. El Gobierno de Guatemala no está acusando a ningún gobierno ni a ningún funcionario extranjero, sino simplemente se ha limitado a reproducir documentos auténticos, en los cuales los propios emigrados guatemaltecos comprometen a esos gobierno y personas.

3º—El Gobierno de Guatemala rechaza, asimismo, categóricamente, por mendaz, la consideración del mismo Depto. de Estado, de que las publicaciones del Gobierno de Guatemala "en vísperas de la décima Conferencia Interamericana, son un esfuerzo comunista para desbaratar la labor de esa conferencia y la solidaridad interamericana", no sólo porque tal afirmación carece por completo de base, sino porque revela la misma insistencia de considerar al Gobierno de Guatemala como de "naturaleza comunista", con el objeto de pretender justificar una acción unilateral contra Guatemala.

El Gobierno de Guatemala, vuelve a insistir, por enésima vez que no es comunista ni su programa está orientado a construir el comunismo. Lejos de eso, es bien sabido que el programa del actual Gobierno de Guatemala se orienta a impulsar reformas económicas y sociales, como la Reforma Agraria; a construir obras de progreso, emprendidas exclusivamente con los recursos nacionales; a procurar mayor bienestar para el pueblo y a defender incólume la soberanía de la nación. Estas medidas precisamente son las que, al chocar con intereses de compañías extranjeras constituyen la causa, en gran parte, de la campaña de amenazas de propaganda contra el gobierno de Guatemala, mediante la acusación de comunismo, emprendida por algunos periódicos y altos funcionarios norteamericanos".